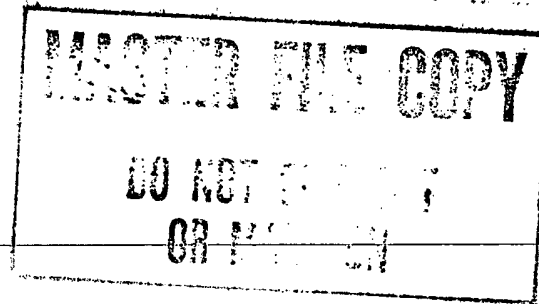




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Central America: Military Geography of the Golfo de Fonseca and the Choluteca Gap

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An Intelligence Assessment

NGA Review Completed

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GI 84-10028
February 1984

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Central America: Military Geography of the Golfo de Fonseca and the Choluteca Gap

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An Intelligence Assessment

*Information available as of 24 February 1984
was used in this report.*

This paper was prepared by [redacted]
[redacted] Office of
Global Issues. It was coordinated with the
Directorate of Operations [redacted]

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Comments and queries are welcome and may be
directed to the Chief, Geography Division, OGI, [redacted]
[redacted]

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GI 84-10028
February 1984

This paper analyzes the effects of environmental conditions on military operations in the Golfo de Fonseca and surrounding lowlands. It discusses insur-

Continental transport across the gulf is limited by local tides, but coastal freighters continue to export products from the region, and fishing boats of all three countries remain active. The most important ports in the gulf are La Unión, El Salvador (population 26,000), Amapala (2,000) and San Lorenzo



room for dispersal and maneuver. The better drained areas in Nicaragua are divided into plantations raising cotton, sugarcane, and rice; in Honduras, most of the land is used for livestock. Other areas are covered by tall grass, scrub, and deciduous trees. The lack of continuous tree cover limits opportunities for concealment and, thus, for guerrilla warfare.

Choluteca, Honduras. A two-lane paved road continuing south from Choluteca to Chiriquigua was the most direct and heavily used route between Nicaragua and El Salvador until flooding destroyed the bridge over the Río Guasacate at the border in May 1982. Traffic must now pass through interior highlands via the Inter-American Highway running northeast out of Choluteca. Despite the long detour, no effort has been

toen and San Lorenzo, is
deterrent to any major
Nicaragua's logistic cap
protracted campaign. H
pose no credible offensi

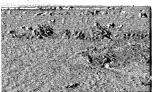
...are probably a
Nicaraguan incursion, and
abilities appear to preclude a
indian forces in the area
a threat to Nicaragua

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Guatemalan soldiers and civilians standing in a line in the town of Chetumal.



View to gently rolling hills and marshy areas of Chetumal. Official Guatemalan and American troops are visible in the foreground. The Guatemalan army is in the background. The American army is in the foreground.

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With most of San Remon, Guatemalan troops between the line and the road. The Guatemalan army is in the background. The American army is in the foreground.



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A Guatemalan army tank in the foreground. The American army is in the background. The Guatemalan army is in the foreground. The American army is in the background.

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